



National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida

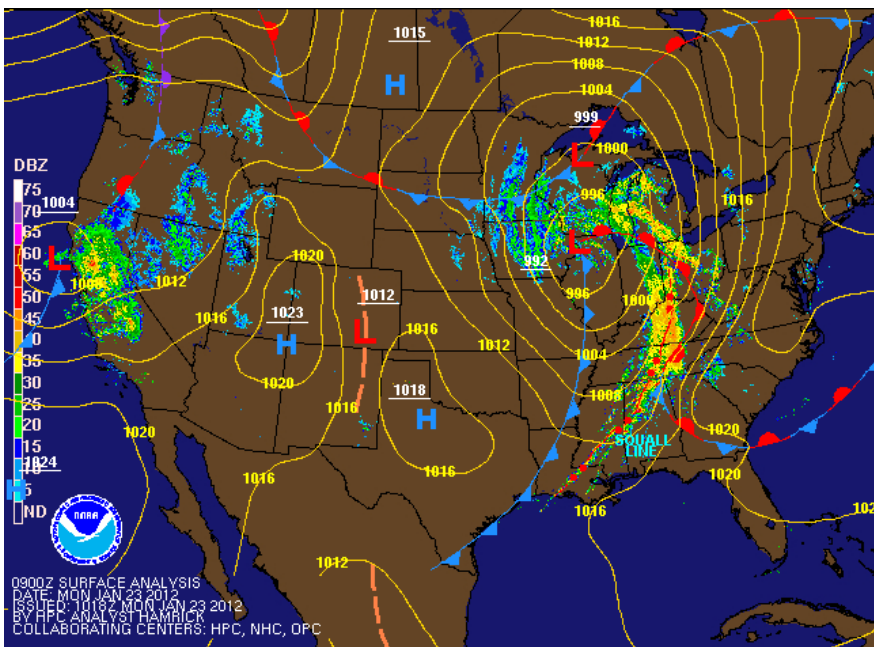


In this update:

Slight risk of strong to severe storms this afternoon & early evening

Key Points for this event:

Thunderstorms ongoing across central and southern Alabama will gradually move east through today, affecting southeast Alabama later this morning and southwest Georgia this afternoon through the evening. There is a slight risk for isolated strong to severe thunderstorm development across these areas as the line of storms approach.



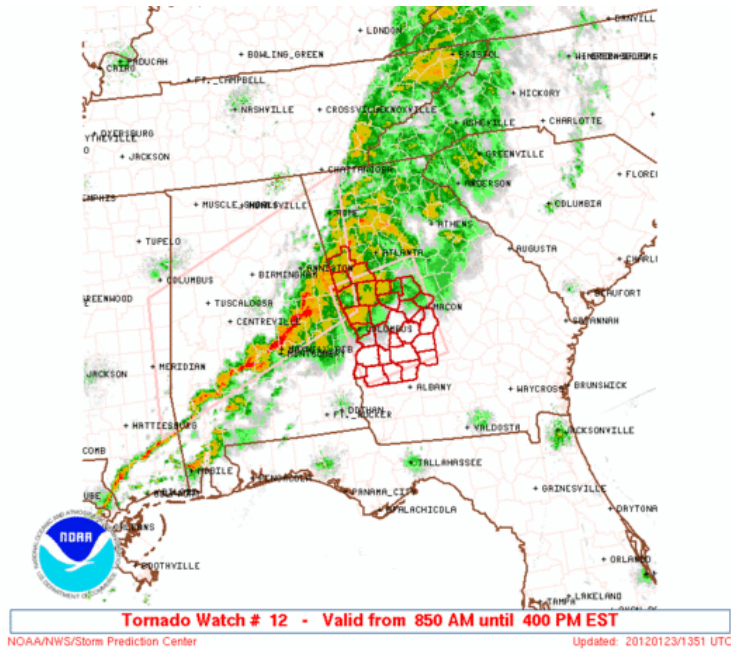
Early Morning Weather Map

The current weather picture:

A vigorous low pressure system (which produced several severe storms across the Mississippi & Tennessee Valleys earlier this morning) will move quickly northeastward across the Upper Midwest today. This will drag a weakening cold front into south Alabama this evening, along with scattered showers and thunderstorms ahead of it. There will be a brief period of time through early this evening when upper level winds could still support the development of isolated severe thunderstorms.

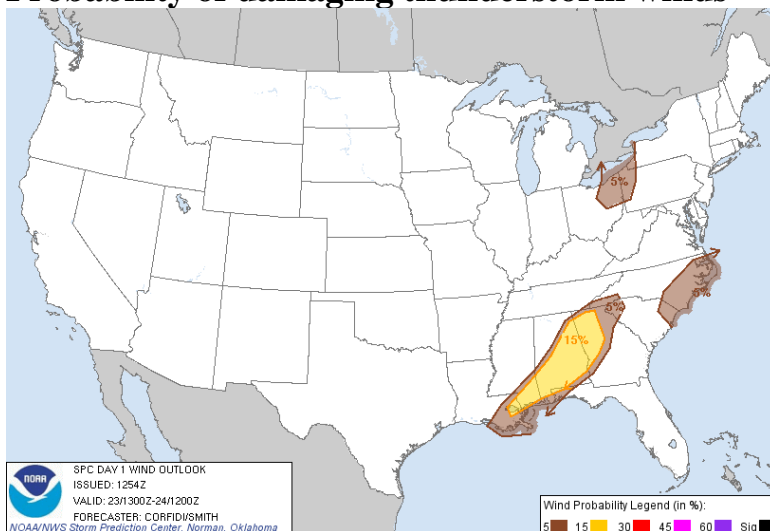
Tornado Watch #12:

The image to the left shows the most recent tornado watch, effective until 4 pm EST. Currently, this watch includes Quitman, Randolph, Terrell, and Lee counties in southwest Georgia.

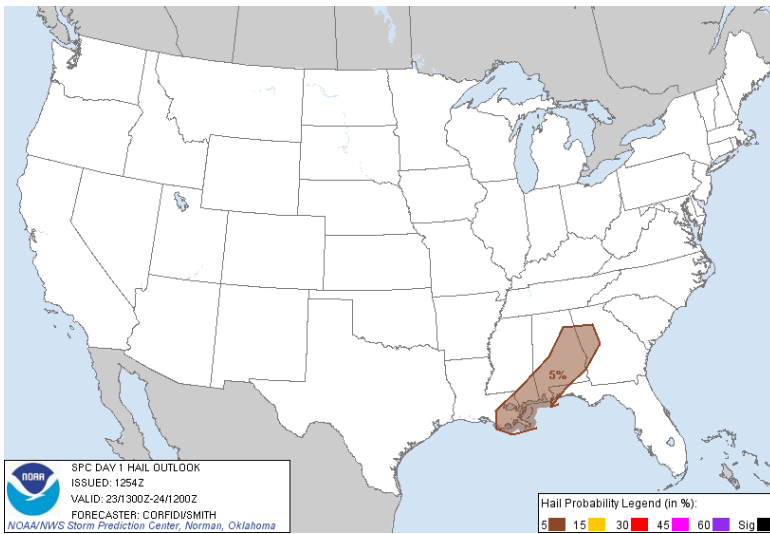


The following image shows where the potential for damaging thunderstorm wind gusts are greatest through this evening. The “Slight Risk” (yellow) just clips our northern tier counties in southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia. Note that although the tornado watch does not include southeast Alabama, there remains the potential for isolated severe thunderstorm development. Locations highlighted in yellow have a 15% chance (within 25 miles of a point) of experiencing damaging thunderstorm winds; the brown area represents a 5% chance.

Probability of damaging thunderstorm winds

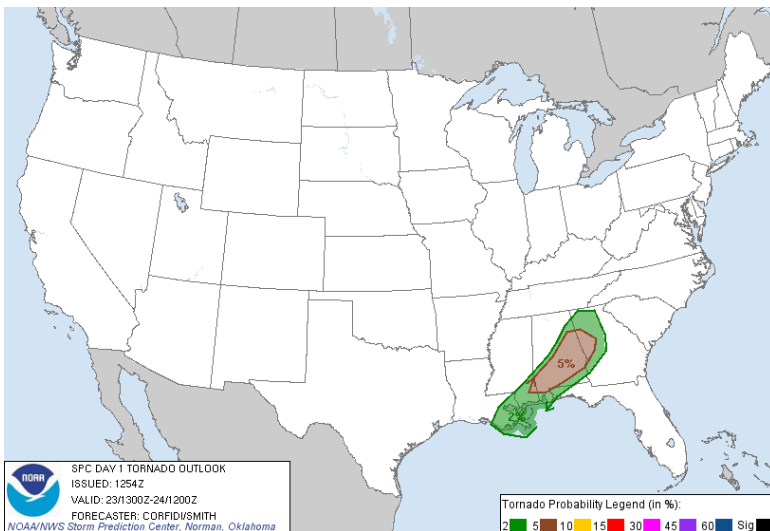


The chance of 1 inch or greater hail is slightly lower (5%):



Probability of large hail

Even lower (2%) is the chance for an isolated tornado, though the overall weather pattern would indicate that such a tornado would probably be relatively “weak” and short-lived. This threat remains highest in and close to the areas under a tornado watch.

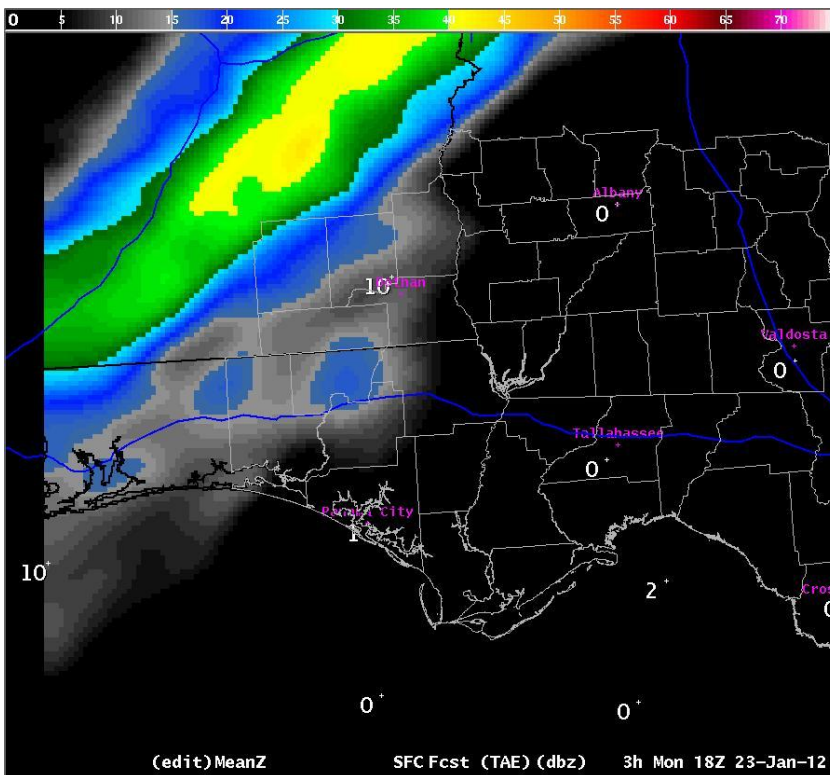


Probability of a tornado

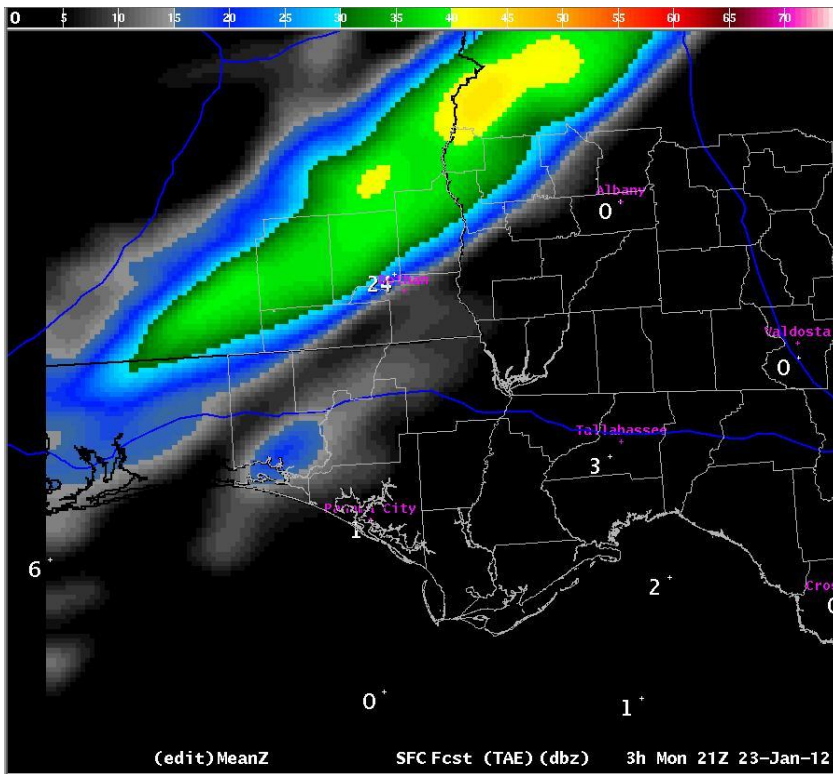
Remember, these numbers may seem almost ridiculously low when you’re used to dealing with rain chances. If you consider that the probability of being directly affected by a rare event like a tornado, it’s almost zero. Thus any severe weather percentage above zero makes it advisable to monitor the weather.

Timing

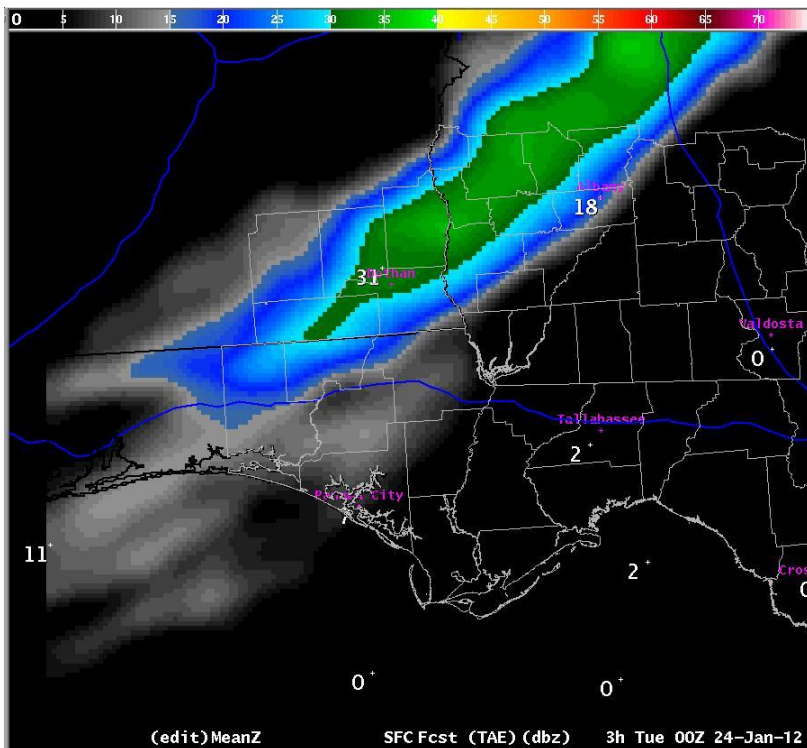
Although isolated to scattered showers may develop early this afternoon, the heavier rain and thunderstorms are not expected to arrive until this afternoon. The next three images show what the local radars might look like this afternoon and evening. They not only indicate the expected timing of the rain, but they also show a gradual weakening trend, especially this evening.



Forecast radar image for early this afternoon



Forecast radar image for mid-late afternoon



Forecast radar image for early this evening

Please note that these are just forecasts,
and that the actual timing of the rain
may vary by several hours.

Impacts

- Because of the low-end nature of this event, we do not expect widespread impacts from this storm system. Any impact would mostly likely be limited to localized areas of downed trees and/or power lines, and possibly damage to more vulnerable structures like mobile homes and sheds. Isolated damaging wind gusts, marginally severe hail (1 inch), or a brief, isolated tornado are possible. In the rare cases when tornadoes do develop in this type of environment, they are usually weak (F0 or F1) and short-lived (less than 10 minutes).

Summary:

- There is a slight risk of severe storms through early this evening.
- The highest probability of severe storms will be in southeast Alabama and southwest Georgia.
- Most of the showers and thunderstorms will occur late this afternoon and evening.
- Isolated damaging wind gusts, marginally severe hail, and/or an isolated tornado will be the main severe weather threats.

The National Weather Service in Tallahassee will continue to monitor this situation. If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 850-942-8833 or on our toll free line at 800-598-4562 and ask to speak to a meteorologist. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us on our Southern Linc phone at 1*77*184.